

Article which appeared in the 21 April 1959 issue of the independent Hamburg newspaper "Die Welt" (circulation: 232,936)

HEADLINE : "THE INCREASE IN THE FLIGHT OF ACADEMICIANS FROM
EAST GERMANY - THE RISING COUNT IN MARCH
AND APRIL - SEVERE LOSS IN JENA"

During March and April, the number of academicians fleeing from East Germany again rose substantially. According to information from the refugee reception center in Berlin-Marienfelde, many doctors and scientists were among the refugees.

In March, 77 people from the academic field registered at Marienfelde alone. From 1 to 18 April, 81 refugees had already appeared. The figures for January and February were 63 and 43 respectively.

Besides these, 38 elementary and high school teachers fled in March; and 67 teachers fled from April 1 to 18. The figures for January and February were 34 and 29.

These figures do not include those refugees, scientists, doctors, and teachers who have registered in the refugee reception centers in Giessen and Uelzen. That count will be made public at the end of the month.

According to these official figures, it can be expected that the flight of the intelligentsia will increase in view of the persistent intellectual oppression.

Among the East German scientific institutes hardest hit by the flight of its scientists, the Institute for Microbiology and Experimental Therapy of the Scientific Academy in Jena is most prominent. From last summer to the middle of March of this year, 25 scientists and their families have fled to West Berlin and West Germany.

The decisive reason for the flight from this Institute was the SED's consistent refusal to grant visas for West Germany. Repeatedly, but always in vain, the members of the Institute demanded the lifting of the ban on West German travel. The SED organization at the Institute answered the scientists' demands with an even stricter interpretation of the already harsh stipulations.